

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18603 281649Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 TRSE-00
/102 W

-----023876 282030Z /40

R 281535Z DEC 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, IS, SOPN, UR, US, XF
SUBJ: SOVIETS STEP UP PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON EGYPT, ISRAEL

SUMMARY: MOSCOW SENSES THAT THE MOMENTUM OF EGYPTIAN-
ISRAELI CONTACTS HAS LAGGED AND HAS MOVED OVER TO THE
OFFENSIVE IN A LONG TASS COMMENTARY PUBLISHED IN THE
CENTRAL PRESS DEC. 28. THE PIECE IS HARDHITTING AND
SUGGESTS THAT MOSCOW FEELS THAT THE TERMS OF THE BEGIN
PLAN, AS THEY HAVE BECOME KNOWN, PROVIDE AN OPENING FOR A
COUNTERATTACK AGAINST SADAT. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE TASS COMMENTARY, "WHAT IS HIDDEN BEHIND THE 'BEGIN
PLAN,'" HITS VERY HARD AT THE PLAN, CLAIMING THAT IT
SEEKS TO PERPETUATE ISRAEL'S CONTROL OVER THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES AND ACTUALLY TO ESTABLISH ISRAELI MILITARY
AND POLITICAL HEGEMONY IN THE MIDDLE EAST "WITH THE
ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT" OF THE U.S. TASS FURTHER

ASSERTS THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS WERE COMPLETELY IGNORED BY THE PLAN, WHICH REPRESENTS "AN INSULT" SINCE IT AMOUNTS TO SETTING UP "LOCAL QUISLINGS" UNDER ISRAELI AEGIS.

2. THIS, TASS SNEERS, IS WHAT SADAT GOT FOR HIS TRIP TO "JERUSALEM-CANOSSA." QUOTING UNNAMED FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS, TASS STATES THAT SADAT WILL HAVE TO TURN ONCE AGAIN TO THE U.S. "IN THE ROLE OF SUPPLICANT." IN THIS COMMENTARY BOTH SADAT AND THE U.S. ARE TREATED ROUGHLY: SADAT FOR HAVING PLAYED INTO ISRAELI HANDS, AND THE U.S. FOR HAVING PLAYED "A LARGE ROLE" IN BRINGING ABOUT THE TALKS WITH BEGIN.

3. COMMENT: THE TASS DESCRIPTION OF THE BEGIN PLAN MAKES IT CLEAR THAT ANY FURTHER EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WOULD REPRESENT A TOTAL SURRENDER OF ARAB, AND PARTICULARLY PALESTINIAN, INTERESTS BY SADAT. EVIDENTLY SENSING AT LEAST A TEMPORARY LAG IN THE MOMENTUM OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS, MOSCOW FEELS THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO MOVE ONTO THE OFFENSIVE IN ITS PROPAGANDA. IT MAY CONSIDER THAT THE BEGIN PLAN, AS IT HAS BECOME KNOWN IN PUBLIC, PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR A RALLYING ARAB OPPOSITION TO SADAT AND FOR REASSERTING SOME SORT OF ROLE FOR SOVIET DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS COMMENTS
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Sent Date: 28-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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